

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2268
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2001
REVIEW OF DAMS
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Dam Council in its report has stated that big dams pose a danger to environment and are disastrous from social points of view;
- (b) if so, whether any suggestions have been made by the council in this regard;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith preventive steps taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government are contemplating to review the big dams to be constructed in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) Yes sir, The World Commission on Dams (WCD) in its report has, inter-alia, stated that the impact due to large dams are more negative than positive and have led to the impoverishment and suffering of millions of people. Government have examined the report and are of the opinion that the report is not based on adequate data and is biased against dams and ignores many of the accepted positive socio- economic changes brought about by dams. The National Water Policy adopted in 1987 and guidelines on various facets of water resources development already take into account a number of safeguards suggested in the report.

(d) & (e) There is no proposal to review the big dams to be constructed in the country as result of the WCD report.